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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/727,520

12/05/2003

Phil Wilkinson

25025.0003

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10/03/2006

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,520

Applicant(s)

WILKINSON, PHIL

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weisman et al (US Patent Application Publication, Pub. No.: US 2004/0047461 A1).
2. In regards to claims 1 and 9, Weisman discloses a method and system for providing pre-paid multi-party conference services (See page 14, paragraph [0178]), the method and system, comprising the steps of: initiating a conference call (See page 1, paragraph [0001]; page 9, paragraph [0130]; and page 10, paragraph [0139]); receiving a first destination number (e.g., desired list of conference participant(s), such as friends, participants sharing a common interest, etc.) from a first device (e.g., conference initiator/creator/moderator) (See page 9, paragraph [0132] and page 10, paragraph [0139]); receiving a first code (i.e., indication of whether or not to allow the participant to join the conference based on a shared common interest or the decision may be based on access criteria) from the first device specifying whether to include the destination number to the conference (See page 10, paragraph [0139] and page 15, paragraph

[0195]); and including the first destination number to the conference call based on the first code (See page 10, paragraph [0139] and page 15, paragraph [0195]).

3. In regards to claims 2 and 10, Weisman discloses the method and system, wherein the first code is reject code (i.e., indication that the participant does not share a common interest or does not have proper access criteria) specifying the exclusion of the first destination number to the conference call (See page 10, paragraph [0139] and page 15, paragraph [0195]).

4. In regards to claims 3 and 11, Weisman discloses the method and system, wherein the first code is an accept code (i.e., indication that the participant does share a common interest or does have proper access criteria) specifying the inclusion of the first destination number to the conference call (See page 10, paragraph [0139] and page 15, paragraph [0195]).

5. In regards to claims 4 and 12, Weisman discloses the method and system, further comprising providing a prompt requesting the first destination number (for example, the system request from the conference initiator/creator/moderator, a list of desired conference participant(s), such as friends, participants sharing a common interest, etc.) (See page 9, paragraph [0132] and page 10, paragraph [0139]).

6. In regards to claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, and 16, Weisman discloses the method and system, further comprising receiving a second code from the first device specifying whether to initiate the addition of another destination number to the conference call (See page 15, paragraph [0193] – [0195]).

7. In regards to claim 17, Weisman discloses the system, further comprising a network, coupled to the system, operable to transmit voice and data communication (See page 6-7, paragraph [0101] – [0102] and page 7-8, paragraph [0111] – [0112]).
8. In regards to claim 18, Weisman discloses the system, wherein the network is a PSTN (e.g., switched telephone network) (See page 6-7, paragraph [0101] – [0102]).
9. In regards to claim 19, Weisman discloses the system, further comprising at least two devices, coupled to the PSTN, operable to provide voice and data (See page 6-7, paragraph [0101] – [0102]).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gavish et al (US Patent Application Publication, Pub. No.: US 2004/0047342 A1) teach multipoint multimedia/audio conference using IP trunking. Weisman et al (US 6,839,417) teach a method and apparatus for improved conference call management. Campbell, IV et al (US 5,903,629) teach an apparatus and method for automated audio teleconferencing having enhanced reconfiguration features.
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.
12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2614

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thjuan P. Knowlin', with a stylized, cursive script.

THJUAN P KNOWLIN
PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600